

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 17 on the basis that “the dispensing tower” has insufficient antecedent. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 17 to replace the words “the dispensing tower” with “the dispensing unit”. Applicant submits that the Examiner’s rejection has been addressed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 19 on the basis that “the distribution lines” has insufficient antecedent. Applicant has amended claims 3 and 19 to replace the words “the distribution lines” with “the distribution line”. Applicant submits that the Examiner’s rejection has been addressed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 and 17-21 on the basis that the claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,598,751 issued to Berkowitz et al. Applicant submits that with the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 17, the claims are not anticipated by Berkowitz et al.

Berkowitz describes beer lines encased by conduits and surrounded by a thick wall of suitable insulation (col 2, lines 17-20). The beer lines terminate in coils 46, 48 and 50 and beer taps or faucets are secured to the ends of the coils (col 2, lines 32-40). The beer is cooled to the dispensing temperature in the coils 46, 48 and 50 (col 3, line 35).

The present invention is for a beverage distribution system that includes a heat transfer unit located distally from the cooler and connected to the trunk line at a position between the cooler and dispensing unit. The coil in the heat transfer unit is connected to the distribution line for delivering the beverage from the container to the dispensing unit. The present invention improves the prospect of the beer being dispensed at a cool temperature when the beer distribution lines have to travel a considerable distance to the point of dispensation, passing near heating ducts or hot water pipes.

The distribution line for delivering the beverage from the container to the dispensing unit and does not terminate at the heat transfer unit. Applicant submits that claims 1-8 and 17-21 are novel and allowable over Berkowitz et al.

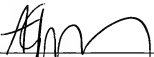
The Examiner has rejected claim 9 on the basis that it is obvious over Berkowitz et al. Applicant incorporates the arguments made above against the rejection of claims 1-8 and 17-21. Claim 9 provides a limitation on the heat transfer unit, namely that coil is metallic, has a length of approximately twenty to fifty feet, and the flow rate of the refrigerant through the heat transfer unit is approximately 25 to 125 gallons per hour. The benefits of the heat transfer unit are described including, at page 6, lines 13 to 20. The temperature of the beverage will drop from about 18 to 26 degrees at a constant pour rate as it passes through the heat transfer unit resulting in less foaming problems and a better beverage product for the customer. Berkowitz et al. does not describe the dimensions of the system described including the effect of the flow rate of the refrigerant or the diameter of the coils. Berkowitz et al. uses a thermostatic control to activate compressor-condensing unit to fix the temperature in the tank.

Favourable consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

A Petition for an Extension of Time requesting an extension of one month for filing the subject response is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for same to our Deposit Account No. 500663.

Executed at Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on May 26, 2008.

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